

**DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**CABINET MEETING**

**10 September 2013**

Report of the Acting Strategic Director – Environmental Services

**GLOBAL DERBYSHIRE SMALL BUSINESS SUPPORT  
PROGRAMME (JOBS, ECONOMY AND TRANSPORT)**

(1) **Purpose of the Report** To seek Cabinet approval for Derbyshire County Council to act as Accountable Body for the “Global Derbyshire” Small Business Support Programme and to commit £70,000 match funding to secure the Regional Growth Fund Round 4 conditional offer of support.

(2) **Information and Analysis** The Regional Growth Fund (RGF) is a £3.2bn fund established in 2011 to help create private sector jobs throughout England. RGF supports projects and programmes that are using private sector investment to create economic growth and sustainable employment. The first three rounds of RGF are now delivering with £2bn awarded to nearly 300 projects and programmes.

Earlier this year, RGF Round 4 was announced, allocating a further £600m of funding. Following the June 2013 Spending Round, the successful applicants were announced including a provisional award of £3m to the Derbyshire Economic Partnership (DEP) “Global Derbyshire” Small Business Support Programme.

**The Programme**

Delivered through DEP, the programme will provide grant support of up to 50% to Micro-enterprises/Small to Medium-size Enterprises (SMEs) in Derbyshire seeking to grow, collaborate, innovate and export whilst creating new employment for local people and attracting inward investment. The objective is to ensure Derbyshire businesses are equipped to access, compete and thrive in the global economy.

Based upon clear evidence of need, the programme will help deliver DEP priorities in relation to business growth, skills development and investment promotion, as well as supporting the growth priorities identified by the two Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) covering Derbyshire, Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham, Nottinghamshire (D2N2) and Sheffield City Region (SCR). The

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programme is complementary to the emerging Council priorities and commitments.

Activity will be supported against 4 strands:

- Start Up Support
- Business Innovation and Development (including Supply Chain Collaboration)
- Delivering Digital Derbyshire
- Export Promotion

Grants of up to £50,000 will be available dependent on strand. The programme is designed to complement national and local business support programmes and target growth sectors identified by D2N2 and SCR LEPs by providing more locally based and easy to access finance for business. Most notably, the programme provides a further complementary layer to the RGF support available locally through the D2N2 “Unlocking Investment for Growth” and SCR “Unlocking Business Investment” RGF3 schemes, adding value and specifically focusing on smaller businesses with growth potential. The programme will also complement the Derby Enterprise Growth Fund (RGF2) available in the Derby City Travel To Work Area by extending reach into smaller businesses that constitute key supply chains across Derbyshire.

A specific strand has been proposed to support the delivery of the recently contracted £27m Digital Derbyshire BDUK programme by providing support to small businesses seeking to invest in ICT capital equipment, promote e-trading and access new markets.

The programme will operate until the end of March 2015 and is anticipated to create a minimum of 200 new and 48 safeguarded jobs, and yield £4m private sector investment.

### **Programme Management**

As set out in the original proposal, the County Council has been nominated as managing agent and accountable body for the programme on behalf of DEP.

A conditional grant offer letter has been received, with appropriate due diligence to be undertaken in conjunction with the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) during September. Subject to due diligence, it is planned to agree a final offer letter by the end of October 2013. It is proposed to launch the scheme in November 2013 and a Marketing Plan is being prepared.

**(3) Financial Considerations** In addition to the £3m RGF funding offered, it is proposed that the County Council contributes £70,000 revenue match funding to support the management and administration of the

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programme. For this purpose, funding has been provisionally allocated from the 2013/14 Regeneration Treasure Chest budget.

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: legal, prevention of crime and disorder, equality and diversity, human resources, environmental, health, property and transport considerations.

(4) **Key Decision** Yes.

(5) **Call-In** Is it required that call-in be waived in respect of the decisions proposed in the report? No.

(6) **Background Papers** All relevant background documentation is held by the Economic Regeneration Service. Officer contact details – Frank Horsley, extension 38348.

(7) **OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATIONS** That Cabinet:

- 7.1 Approves the County Council to act as Accountable Body and Managing Agent for the Derbyshire Economic Partnership "Global Derbyshire" Small Business Support Programme.
- 7.2 Accepts, subject to the necessary due diligence being completed, the grant of £3 million from the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) to deliver this programme.
- 7.3 Commits £70,000 revenue match funding to support delivery of the scheme from existing Economic Regeneration budgets.

**Mike Ashworth**  
**Acting Strategic Director – Environmental Services**